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March 21, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol Building, Room B22
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

First, I want to thank you for your bold leadership during this extreme crisis in our state. I also want to acknowledge your recent efforts to receive the US SBA designation for low-interest loans during this COVID-19 crisis. On behalf of our 6,000 members, we will help raise awareness of this program and stand ready to assist Oklahoma's businesses.

Secondly, I am writing in anticipation of increased measures to protect the citizens of Oklahoma which might include an order to close the physical locations of all non-life-sustaining businesses in Oklahoma.

I am hereby requesting that Oklahoma's Certified Public Accounting Profession be included in the list of the **Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce exceptions** and be allowed to go to their physical offices when needed and by maintaining the social distance guidelines (less than 50% capacity) when in their offices.

While the CPA Profession has implemented remote work there are some critical functions that are required to be done in the office, including payroll and banking in secure systems, processing mail with checks, invoices, and other financial correspondence. This falls under the Professional and Business Services [classification of the NAICS](#) in two categories, [#5412 Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services](#) and [#5511 Management of Companies and Enterprises](#) which covers CPAs and management accountants in businesses and non-profits (CFOs, Controllers, etc.).

CPAs are essential to the US economy as we work on compliance with Federal and State Tax and Financial Reporting requirements. CPAs are essential for the preparation of taxes, audits and financial reports for business financing and loans, projections and contingency planning for businesses.

According to the [Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency advisory](#) and their [GUIDANCE ON THE 16 ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKFORCE](#), they cite the Financial Services Sector as one of these essential services.



"Workers who are needed to process and maintain systems for processing financial transactions and services (e.g., payment, clearing, and settlement; wholesale funding; insurance services; and capital markets activities)."

We believe CPAs and accounting are clearly included in the Department of Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure but want to make sure you consider our request should you have to take increased security measures.

I also want to make our Profession available to you and your departments to assist Oklahoma businesses through these difficult times.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact me at (405) 308-1578 or bpeterson@oscpa.com at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blaine M. Peterson".

Blaine M. Peterson, CPA, JD
President and CEO
Oklahoma Society of CPAs

cc: Hon. Secretary Sean Kouplen, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Work Development